Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 094253
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ADUBS:CF
APPROVED BY P:PHABIB
NEA - MR ATHERTON
NEA/P - MR SHERMAN
D/HA - MR CHESLAW
PM - MR ERICSON
S/P - MR. KREISBERG
S/S .GOLDSMITH
----------270127Z 004028 /72
O 270049Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 4149

1. WE AGREE FULLY THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME TO HAVE SOME PUBLIC COMMENT AVAILABLE TO COUNTERACT ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S OPPONENTS. SET FORTH BELOW IS THE PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH WILL BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN. YOU WILL NOTE THAT IT FOLLOWS CLOSELY YOUR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS. YOU SHOULD USE THIS PRESS GUIDANCE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 094253

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY FOREIGN OR PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS.

2. PRESS GUIDANCE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.

Q. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS MADE IN PAKISTAN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING PRIME

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

MINISTER BHUTTO'S OPPOSITION?

A. WE ARE AWARE OF ALLEGATIONS MADE IN PAKISTAN OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL PROCESS ON BEHALF OF THE OPPOSITION. THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE BASELESS. THE

USG HAS HAD NEITHER THE DESIRE NOR THE REASON TO MAKE ANY EFFORT TO SUPPORT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S OPPOSITION OR TO INTERFERE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN PAKISTAN, AND IT HAS NOT DONE SO.

WE HAVE BEEN DISTRESSED BY THE LOSS OF LIFE, THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, AND THE DISRUPTION OF THE ECONOMY WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE THERE OVER THE PAST WEEKS. WE HOPE THAT THE PROLONGED POLITICAL CONFRONTATION THERE CAN SOON BE RESOLVED. WE HOPE THAT AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS CAN BE FOUND SO THAT PAKISTAN CAN AGAIN ENJOY THE STABLE CONDITIONS IT NEEDS AND DESERVES.

Q. DOES THE U.S. CONSIDER THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IS ENGAGED IN THE VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN PURSUING ITS TACTICS TOWARD THE OPPOSITION?

A. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED WITH VIOLENCE BEING USED BY BOTH SIDES. AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY, WE REGRET VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEREVER AND HOWEVER THEY OCCUR AND BY WHOMEVER PERPETRATED. WE HOPE THAT A PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF THE POLITICAL CONFRONTATION IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 094253

PAKISTAN WILL ELIMINATE ALL RESORT TO VIOLENCE AND RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q. (IF RAISED) DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PRESENT NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED BY THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT?

A. WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF THOSE ARRESTED SINCE THE CONFRONTATION BEGAN. THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT ISSUED ANY FIGURE, BUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY STATED THAT THE 28,000 NUMBER ALLEGED BY THE OPPOSITION IS "GREATLY INFLATED."

Q. WAS THE DECISION TO SUSPEND A TEAR GAS SHIPMENT TO PAKISTAN DESIGNED TO SHOW DISPLEASURE WITH THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT?

A. THE DECISION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR POLICY TOWARD PAKISTAN. WE CHOSE NOT TO PROVIDE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT TO SECURITY FORCES IN CIRCUMSTANCES
SUCH AS EXIST NOW IN PAKISTAN.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE094253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ADUBS:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770145-1116
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770413/aaaaalbk.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 4149
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2677654
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENT ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, PK
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd483e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009